

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03 L-02 IO-03

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 11371

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

BSUBJ: MR 2 WEEKLY CEASEFIRE OVERVIEW, JUNE 17-23

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SAIGON INFO USDAO SAIGON, CINCPAC, USSAG NKP RTAF

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FROM NHA TRANG JUNE 23, REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO.

QUOTE:

NHA TRANG 0634

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR 2 WEEKLY CEASE-FIRE OVERVIEW, JUNE 17-23

1. THE ONLY SIGNIFICANT AREA OF CONTINUING MILITARY ACTIVITY IN
MR 2 AT THE PRESENT TIME IS WEST OF KONTUM CITY, WHERE 3 ARVN
BATTALIONS PLUS RF FORCES ARE CONTINUING TO PRESS SLOWLY AGAINST
TRUNG NGHIA VILLAGE AND NEARBY HAMLETS WHICH WERE SEIZED BY
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THE VC/NVA IN THE SHARP ATTACK JUNE 7-9. HOWEVER, EVEN CONSIDERING

THE ACTION IN KONTUM, THERE WAS A DEFINITE DOWNWARD TREND IN MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MR 2 DURING THE WEEK.

2. IN PARTICULAR, ENEMY-INITIATED ACTIVITY SEEMS TO BE DECREASING, AND BY THURSDAY, JUNE 21 THERE WAS A 24-HOUR PERIOD WITH NO INCIDENTS AT ALL WHICH WERE CLEARLY ENEMY-INITIATED. IT IS NOT USUALLY EVIDENT FROM GVN ACTIVITY REPORTS WHETHER A GIVEN INCIDENT IS IN FACT ENEMY-INITIATED OR FRIENDLY-INITIATED, FOR ALL INCIDENTS ARE NOW BEING REPORTED AS ENEMY-INITIATED, BUT A LARGE PORTION OF THIS WEEK'S INCIDENTS INVOLVED SUCH ACTS AS RVNAF PATROLS STUMBLING UPON VC MINES (WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN PLACED SOME TIME AGO) OR VC/NVA ATTACKS BY FIRE AGAINST RVNAF TROOPS ADVANCING AGAINST THE NEW COMMUNIST POSITIONS IN KONTUM.

3. THE OTHER SIDE CONTINUES TO SEEK DISCUSSIONS WITH RVNAF FIELD COMMANDERS ALLEGEDLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 4 OF THE PROTOCOL ON THE CEASE-FIRE. SUCH OVERTURES WERE MADE IN KONTUM AND BINH DINH DURING THE WEEK BUT WERE REBUFFED AS USUAL BY GVN OFFICIALS WHO WERE COMPLYING WITH CURRENT DIRECTIVES FROM SAIGON WHICH FORBID OFFICIALS BELOW THE LEVEL OF PROVINCE CHIEF AND DIVISION COMMANDER TO HAVE CONTACT WITH THE OTHER SIDE AND WHICH FURTHERMORE SEEM TO DISCOURAGE CONTACTS NOT ONLY AT THIS LEVEL BUT AT CORPS AS WELL. IN KONTUM IT IS PRESUMED THAT THE OTHER SIDE WOULD LIKE, THROUGH TALKS, TO REACH SOME ACCOMMODATION WITH THE GVN AND WIN RECOGNITION OF ITS GAINS IN THE TRUNG NGHIA AREA; HOWEVER, IT SEEMS THAT THE GVN HAS NO INTENTION WHATSOEVER OF GIVING UP ITS PLANS TO RETAKE THE RECENTLY LOST TERRAIN REGARDLESS OF THE PARIS COMMUNIQUE OR CONTINUED VC/NVA OVERTURES. IN FACT, MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE AREA IS CONTINUING AS THE RELATIVE CALM OF THURSDAY WAS BROKEN FRIDAY, AND 8 INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED THERE INVOLVING 5 RVNAF KIA AND 22 WIA.

4. REACTION OF MOST GVN OFFICIALS TO PARIS COMMUNIQUE IS STILL ONE OF SKEPTICISM AND DISTRUST OF COMMUNIST INTENTIONS. NEVERTHELESS, WHILE THE COMMUNIQUE DOES LITTLE MORE THAN REITERATE POINTS MADE IN THE JANUARY AGREEMENT, IT SEEMS TO HAVE BROUGHT SOME FEELING OF RELAXATION IF NOT HIGH HOPES; INDEED, FIELD COMMANDERS ARE CONCERNED LEST THIS FEELING MAY DULL THE COMBAT ALERTNESS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND ARE EXHORTING THEIR TROOPS TO REMAIN STRONG.

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5. VC PROPAGANDA EFFORTS SEEM POSSIBLY TO BE INCREASING AND NOW ARE STRONGLY ORIENTED TOWARD THE PARIS COMMUNIQUE AND THE "COMMUNIST VICTORY" THAT IT REPRESENTS. RECENT PROPAGANDA HAS ALSO BEEN DIRECTED TOWARD THE SUBJECT OF NATIONAL ELECTIONS, WITH REFERENCES BEING MADE TO "WHEN" NATIONAL ELECTIONS WITH THE GVN/PRG TAKE PLACE, NOT MERELY "IF" THEY TAKE PLACE.
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